

Abstract

Audio or other information is delivered to a user via a multi-stream digital broadcasting system in a partially-encrypted form. The information is encoded and separated into multiple bitstreams, at least a subset of which are left unencrypted. Both the encrypted and unencrypted
5 bitstreams are received and stored by the user. A user is able, for at least a limited period of time, to access the information at a first quality level, e.g., an FM-quality level for audio information, without having the corresponding decryption key, by utilizing only the unencrypted bitstreams. The user can then access an electronic-commerce web site to purchase the decryption key. The key may be downloaded from the site to an information processing device of the user, and may be utilized to
10 decrypt the partially-encrypted format, such that the user is provided with access to the information at a second quality level higher than the first quality level, e.g., a CD-quality level for audio information. The multiple bitstreams may correspond, e.g., to subbands of at least first and second digital sidebands of a host carrier signal in an FM in-band on-channel (FM-IBOC) digital audio broadcasting system.

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